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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM • LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO • PLP

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FRANCE: RULERS' RACISM CREATES TERROR

As the world's capitalist powers rally around the racist French cartoonists (dead and alive) of *Charlie Hebdo*, they are seizing upon the killings to celebrate the myth of "free speech" [see box] and to intensify racism against Muslims and Arabs. French bosses are using the incidents to push through their version of the USA Patriot Act "to authorize more intrusive surveillance" (New York Times, 1/13/15) — code for a fascist crackdown against protesters and dissenters. As they target small-time Islamic terrorists, the biggest terrorists — the U.S., the European Union, China, and Russia — are maneuvering to gain an edge in their escalating inter-imperialist rivalry. They will exploit the victims in Paris in the cause of nationalism and fascism — and for the bigger wars to come.

The U.S. and European bosses need to win millions of working-class youth to think they are fighting racism by joining the military to fight the Islamic State (ISIS). Their greatest fear is that youth and workers will follow the lead of the rebels in Ferguson, Missouri. That's the real fight against racism: to confront the bosses' brutal use of state power and the apparatus (cops, courts, jails) that props them up.

Individual terrorists can never defeat the rulers' racism. It was the working-class masses in the Soviet Union and China and the Resistance movements that smashed the Nazis and their Japanese fascist allies in World War II. Racism can only be obliterated by mass working-class revolutionary violence. We need to organize tens of millions of workers, under the banner of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party, to smash capital-

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No Free Speech for Racists!

The capitalist bosses and their media claim the hallmark of their "democracy" is "free speech." But their control of the media insures that only those who support the bosses' class interests will be allowed a mass audience. Speech is free for pro-Nazis, fascists, the Ku Klux Klan and their ilk. Their public demonstrations are protected by masses of cops, the same cops who murder innocent Black and Latino youth and workers. (No free speech for them!) In the U.S., Progressive Labor Party has led more than 100,000 protesters in directly attacking these racists since the 1970s. Many of us and our friends have been jailed for exercising our supposed right to protest.

The "free speech" enshrined in the U.S. Constitution was designed to serve the "founding fathers" who made slavery legal and committed genocide against indigenous people. (The first eight U.S. presidents were themselves slave-owners.) Even after the Civil War and the legal emancipation of slaves, Black workers remained enslaved by the sharecropping system, Jim Crow laws, and by legalized KKK lynchings.

Whenever communists lead workers in class struggle, from the communist-organized industrial unions of the 1930s to the anti-racist struggles of today, the ruling class cracks down on our class's "free speech." During the Great Depression, the bosses' cops, National Guard and military attacked and murdered thousands of workers who sought only the freedom to organize. Time and again, the rulers have shown they will not stand by and allow communist ideas to lead these struggles.

We must not be deceived or sidetracked by the debate over "free speech." It is against our class's interests to allow free speech for racists, fascists, anti-communists and other forces that serve the capitalists' class interests.

The only speech that must be free is speech that serves the working class.

The real faces of terrorism



The capitalist state is terrorism against the working class

Editorial

France: Rulers' Racism Creates Terror

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ism and build a worker-run society: communism.

In the aftermath of al Qaeda's latest atrocities, U.S. rulers worked overtime to obscure the main source of violence: capitalist competition over oil and gas. In reality, the assaults in France stemmed from two related factors. Al Qaeda (along with rival ISIS) aims to seize Middle East energy riches from U.S. and allied control by force, including terror attacks in the West. Meanwhile, the long, vicious history of French imperialism's anti-Arab/Muslim racism spurs on the terrorists, helping al Qaeda and ISIS recruitment efforts. But you wouldn't know any of this by reading *Foreign Affairs* (1/7/15), the journal of U.S. imperialism's top think tank, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR):

> *The death toll makes this week's attack the most significant on French soil since the Nazi occupation — a huge milestone in al Qaeda's campaign against the West. It is part of a long line of plots to kill media figures for their symbolic value in the West as paragons of free speech and to some Muslims as examples of the evil of secularism.*

French Rulers Murder 600 Muslims

The CFR, like virtually all the rulers' media outlets, are ignoring the far deadlier government-led massacre of Arab workers in Paris on October 17, 1961. Only Robert Fisk of the (London) Independent (1/9/15) made the obvious connection:

> *Algerians had long provided the majority of France's Muslim population and in October 1961 up to 30,000 of them staged a banned independence rally in Paris — in fact, scarcely a mile from the scene of last week's slaughter — which was attacked by French police units who murdered, it is now acknowledged, up to 600 of the protesters.*

Terrorists, as bloody as they are, can never match the lethal power of a threatened capitalist state. In 1961, cutthroat French rulers were trying desperately to hang on to an African empire that generated superprofits from super-exploitation of Black, Arab and Muslim workers. The French imperialists engaged in mass savagery in Algeria, their former colony, killing tens of thousands who were fighting exploitation.

Today's embattled U.S. imperialists kill millions — 3 million in Iraq alone — in their Middle East energy wars as they ramp up for broader conflicts with China and Russia. U.S.-led forces more than doubled the *Charlie Hebdo* body count one week earlier, when their rockets wiped out 25 Afghan civilians (New York Times, 1/1/15). The victims were celebrating a wedding in Helmand province, along the route of a proposed but much-delayed, U.S.-dominated TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) gas pipeline.

The media's big lie is their focus on Islam as a source of terrorist violence. While oppressed rank-and-filers may in fact be won to jihad as a form of rebellion against the West, profits matter more than the Prophet (Mohammed) to the chiefs of al Qaeda and ISIS. Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden came from a billionaire, non-royal Saudi family shut out of the state-owned Aramco's multi-trillion-dollar oil holdings. His 1996 declaration of holy war on the U.S. was keyed to a demand to dethrone the reigning Saud family and expel "American occupiers" from the country with the world's largest oil reserves. A 2004 bin Laden message to believers targeted ExxonMobil and Anglo-Dutch Shell, Aramco's biggest partners:

> *One of the main causes for our enemies' gaining hegemony over our country is their stealing our oil; therefore, you should make every effort in your power to stop the greatest theft in history, which is being carried out through collaboration between foreigners and [native] agents… Focus your operations on it [oil production]* (Quoted by Middle East Media Research Institute, 12/30/04).

As for ISIS, which has ties to the Paris kosher market attack, its oil profit motive couldn't be more blatant. Like al Qaeda, the top tier of ISIS unites Islamic energy barons in search of state power. ISIS operates on oil revenues from fields and refineries grabbed in Iraq, resources that the U.S. war machine was supposed to secure for Exxon.

Anti-Immigrant Racism Riding High in France

France is fast becoming an ever more virulent bastion of racism. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Muslim scarves and other religious garments are banned in public schools. Marine Le Pen's National Front led the voting in recent elections, with an ultra-racist platform directed against Black and Arab/Muslim immigrants from North Africa.

The French fascists tie immigration to rising unemployment, the highest in decades. They hide the true source of joblessness, which is built into the cyclical boom and bust of capitalism. Many immigrant workers are segregated into ghettoes surrounding Paris and other big cities, victims of joblessness and slum housing. Their living conditions are similar to those facing Black and Latin workers in the U.S.

Anti-immigrant attacks are spreading throughout the European Union. In Dresden, Germany, pro-Nazis organized an anti-immigrant demonstration of 18,000. The 40 capitalist state leaders, the ruling-class servants who turned out for a photo-op at the mass demonstration in Paris, all represent countries that routinely torture innocents. *Charlie Hebdo* serves the liberal rulers' purposes by dehumanizing Arabs and Muslims. The magazine's disgusting cartoons evoke Nazi caricatures of Jews in the 1930s, a classic tool for a ruling class bent on war. *Charlie* and *Charlie*-inspired cartoons now appear in "respectable" U.S. publications. As mosques are attacked in France, major U.S. corporations are donating funds to this rampantly racist magazine.

Only Communist Revolution Can Eliminate Racism

Racism can be fought and crushed only by smashing capitalism, which depends on racism for superprofits and uses it to divide the working class. The goal of PLP is to destroy the profit system and its bosses, and to rid the world of unemployment, poverty, racism, sexism and imperialist war.

Building such a movement means spreading communist ideas in every organization: shops, unions, community groups, churches and especially the military. Rank-and-file soldiers, Marines, and sailors must be won to turn their guns around and direct their fire at their generals, who lead the rulers' wars for profit. These workers must be won to unite with their sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Join and build a mass PLP!✪

OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Car Wash Strikers Defy Bosses' Scabs



BROOKLYN, January 14 — Car wash workers here have been on strike for the past month shutting down the Vegas Auto Spa. The bosses re-opened with scabs recently. But the strikers are undeterred, especially since most motorists are respecting the picket line. This group of young Latin men took a decisive stand after they had enough of the conditions imposed by their racist boss, Marat Leshinsky. For years, they have labored under hazardous working conditions, receiving sub-minimum wages and expected to work long and often unpaid hours (sometimes 90 hours/week!).

These workers have organized themselves and joined a union, which this boss refuses to bargain with or recognize. The perseverance of these workers has inspired many in the surrounding community. Recently, with much support from residents and a community organization, the Washeros staged a march through the neighborhood all the way to Bay Ridge, to deliver their demands at the doorstep of the home of their greedy boss.

The strikers are well aware that this kind of exploitation of Latin immigrant workers reaps super-profits for the capitalist system. It is clearly racist, and all workers need to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters who are taking the lead in fighting back.

In addition to joining their picket line, bringing hot coffee and making donations, some workers have asked that we help write and tell their story in CHALLENGE, which has been well received by the strikers. Those of us in PLP are hopeful that all workers will join the fight to 'Smash ALL Borders' along with this capitalist system, which utilizes racism to exploit us all.

This has been a long strike, made even more difficult for these workers and their families by the cold weather and the arrival of the holidays. They receive very modest financial support from the union. The strikers have asked us to reach out to our friends, as well as the unions and other organizations that we work in, to help build solidarity in support of the bold spirit demonstrated by these strikers.

CHALLENGE readers are encouraged to show solidarity with the striking workers. The car wash is located at 557 Seventh Avenue in Brooklyn.✪

No Free Speech for Texas Racist

TEXAS — The day after the non-indictment for Michael Brown's racist killer Darren Wilson, we carried out a planned protest on our school campus. Students and friends joined us in passing out flyers and chanting "Racist cops you can't hide, we charge you with genocide" and "Racist killer cops mean, we've got to fight back!" The campus police were on the watch and quickly told us that we couldn't pass out flyers, but we continued anyway in different parts of the campus.

We marched through campus and ended up across the adjacent main street. Many people supported the protest, including a father and his daughter who joined briefly. Another worker approached a comrade and gave thanks. One racist student had made a sign that said "I support Darren Wilson." Two of us took away his sign and tore it up. We don't believe in free speech for racists!

An hour after our action on campus we went to the east side of town to distribute literature and talk to the people on the streets — a sharp contrast to other groups that want to protest in the middle of touristy downtown. With our banner, chants and flyers in hand we stood on the street corner. A few passed out flyers, knocking on car doors and giving leaflets at stop lights. The response was great, with people putting their fists in the air, honking and expressing their agreement with our ideas.

One woman told us she had never heard anyone call for multiracial unity. She also said she had been blinded by the idea of "black nationalism." We agreed with her that only multiracial unity can smash racism, and we must all unite to fight. We made a contact with one worker who just lost his job and was excited about our presence.

The last event was a rally of about 200 in front of the city courthouse. Many speakers supported voting or body cameras as solutions and being more involved in the bosses' "democratic" system. One man spoke about how there are really good cops. He even raised the rotten apple metaphor which says one bad apple will spoil the whole bunch, as if that explains why the racist police are so commonplace.

One comrade told the group that this was about fighting capitalism and taking the fight to our schools and in the workplace where we can really shut the profit system down and hurt the bosses. Our chants were the most popular throughout the rally. We were the only ones to pass out literature and have a banner ready, as well as antiracist buttons. We distributed several hundred flyers and dozens of buttons.

The capitalist state will continue to provide opportunities to expose this racist system as death and exploitation of the working class continue. When our class brothers and sisters are being murdered, we are ready to grow stronger and more organized. Only fighting for communism can end racist police murders and establish an egalitarian world where police don't exist.✪

Fight for Justice, Defy Politicians



BROOKLYN, NY, December 21 —Supporters and friends filled the lobby of an apartment building here in Brooklyn to mark the monthly anniversary of Kyam Livingston's murder caused by the racist denial of treatment by the NYPD cops at the Central Booking holding cell. The Support Committee had planned an indoor event to mark the date with both talk and a meal to share together during the holiday season. The crowd included friends and family of Kyam, unionists, church members, family members of other police murder victims as well as many members of Progressive Labor Party.

We carried out those plans but added a march through the neighborhood as our response to Mayor de Blasio's call for a suspension of anti-racist demonstrations until cops Liu and Ramos were buried. The Mayor's call for respect for the mourning period stands in sharp contrast to how racist cops treat the working class every day.

Kyam's mother explained at an impromptu rally how her daughter was left dying for seven hours in the Central Bookings cell. She pointed out that cops Liu and Ramos were buried with full honors while Kyam was denied last rites. Kyam's sister had been frustrated from seeing Kyam's body for hours after her death.

This is not a unique example of disrespect. Mike Brown's body lay in the street for four and a half hours after he was shot. Eric Garner received no medical attention as he lay dying unable to breathe. Shantel Davis bled out after being shot with no medical care. Akai Gurley, shot by "accident," lay dying while the NYPD killer called his "union rep" to ask what to do. Tamir Rice lay dead in a park while his sister, trying to help him, was tackled, handcuffed, and thrown into the back of the killer kkkops' patrol car.

As we marched along Church Avenue we chanted "Eric Garner, Mike Brown — Shut this racist system down!" changing the names to remember Kyam, Shantel, Akai and others who have died at the hands of the police. Hundreds came out of their homes or stopped their shopping to watch us march by. Many enthusiastically joined in our chants like "how do you spell racist? N-Y-P-D, how do you spell murderer? N-Y-P-D!" Many copies of CHALLENGE were distributed along the march.

After returning to our starting point, a speaker from Ferguson moved the crowd with his recounting of how the murder of Mike Brown had changed his life. He brought the fight-like-Ferguson spirit to the crowd with his call to shut this racist system down. Finally, a PL'er who has lived in the area for 40 years recounted a list of racist police murders and explained that we fight with families for justice in each of these cases but to end this police terror we need to win communist revolution.✪

Building a Party of Millions to End Ruling-Class Violence

Politicians, Courts, Cops, Klan ALL Serve the Bosses

NEW YORK CITY, December 13 — Among the many hundreds of protests worldwide against racist police murder, I joined marches with my co-workers and PLP throughout the city, from Harlem to Foley Square. What does this amazing upsurge of antiracist, anti-police, and at least partly anti-capitalist feeling mean for revolutionary communists today? How can the Party seize this political-economic moment to mobilize more of our class for revolution?

We must be clear about our view of the police and the state. We begin from the vicious global competition among the rival big capitalists, heading towards a worldwide conflict among imperialists. To prepare for that conflict and to emerge from the economic crisis, they are all cracking down on workers with harsh racist austerity, increasing the rate of exploitation and therefore arousing the anger of workers everywhere who are jobless or underpaid, with terrible schools, housing and healthcare. How does racist capitalism deal with the danger of working-class anger exploding, especially among the most exploited Black, brown, and immigrant workers? Through the state. Through the police!

The State

Lenin in *State and Revolution* showed that the state is not a neutral force above society, but that every form of the state in history has expressed the domination over society of one social class. The state is a system of class rule. The ruling class relies on the unions, schools, media, churches, courts and politicians to control the workers on a daily basis. When these institutions fail to confine us in the prison of ideology, the rulers turn to repression: first the police, then the National Guard, and finally the full might of the armed forces are sent out to beat the workers into submission. At its brutal core, the state is simply composed of "special bodies of armed men" (Lenin) who guarantee class rule. As exploitation increases to win the capitalists' competition against global rivals, the repressive force of the state will increasingly come to the fore, starting with its first line of defense, the police.

The Police

The first modern police force in what is now the United States, beginning in South Carolina in 1704, was the slave patrol. These forces hunted down and punished runaway and "defiant" slaves; they were a form of organized terror to deter revolts that might threaten plantation profits.

According to historian Diane McWhorter, the Ku Klux Klan formed alliances with governors' administrations in states like Alabama and Mississippi. Throughout the South and Midwest, Klan members and local cops (often the same people) conspired to attack and murder civil rights activists.

The police target workers dangerous to capital, those who pose the most danger to the profit system when mobilized in groups: striking, organizing in the workplace, agitating in the neighborhoods and campuses, massing in the city centers.

In a racist system the most dangerous workers are the super-exploited, communists, and militant workers. The crime-fighting aspect of police work is also targeted at dangerous workers, those who turn to antisocial crime, which endangers the established capitalists' interests as well as disrupting workers' lives. Crime is also a pretext for violent police patrols.

A key part of the police defense of capital is attack: they pre-empt worker upsurges by attacking first, terrorizing and intimidating the angry ones who might organize to fight back, especially Black, Latin, and immigrant workers. Armed police attack is backed up by the media, educators, clergy, courts and politicians who either defend police violence or counsel workers not to fight back. Violent, aggressive police patrols in Black and Latin areas (stop-and-frisk, broken windows), and police repression even of modest peaceful protest with shows of police power, embody this attack-first, pre-emptive strategy to instil fear in us. They would like us to back down without a fight so they "pre-frighten" us.

The Rule of Law

Laws, courts and prisons are annexes to state armed force, not the other way around; armed force is the foundation of the state, and the grand structure of laws and courts simply the hypocrite's mask covering the state monopoly of violence. Their vaunted "rule of law" (used to justify the grand jury system and the whole authority of the police) is nothing but the rule of

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Rebel vs. Still Another Racist Murder



BERKELEY, MISSOURI, December 23 — These racist cops kill with impunity! A kkkop murdered 18-year-old Black teen Antonio Martin on the night of December 23. The incident took place here just a few miles from Ferguson, the site of the racist murder of Michael Brown. Over 300 people rallied, setting off fireworks and throwing bricks and rocks at the police. Bosses are now spreading their racist slander against this Black teen murdered by cops, but they paint their kkkops as heroes. In New York City, the mayor banned protests in "respect to mourn" the two cops killed.

These racist bosses have nothing to offer our class, not even sympathy. That's because the bankers and politicians make money off the terrorization and genocide of the working class. Capitalism is the real criminal. Cops and bosses can get away with murder while the working class gets terrorized, deported, disappeared, starved, and killed — all legal under capitalism. This is war against our class. The bosses preach peace and shoot bullets. The state of Missouri has spent over $12.5 million since Ferguson to quell protests.

Workers and youth in Missouri will continue to rebel and will have the backing of the international working class. Justice for Mike Brown, Vonderrit Myers, and Antonio Martin will come from the working-class burying this murderous system once and for all. This means a violent communist revolution.

We are organizing on our jobs and in our schools, churches, unions, military and many other places where workers are present. We are building a mass movement to combat police terror, imperialist wars and their root cause: capitalism. Spark walkouts, strikes, rebellions and turn them into armed struggle for communist revolution. In the process, we are winning workers and youth to see that racist terror will end only when the working class takes power with communist revolution. Our strategy is to build a Party of millions leading millions more, across all borders.✪

Racist Profiling For Real

Are cops across the U.S. trained to shoot innocent Black men but not whites who go on a shooting spree? Read the following excerpt from the January 5th New York Times and see if cops' racist profiling kills Black males for no reason while refusing to arrest a white woman, wearing body armor, who flaunted a gun, shot at people multiple times and at a cop and led police in a chase through the streets.

There's absolutely no doubt that racism is a killer, which the bosses use to win white workers to capitalist goals.

The day after Christmas, a shooter terrorized the streets of… Chattanooga, Tenn. According to the local newspaper, the shooter was "wearing body armor" and "firing multiple shots out her window at people and cars." One witness told the paper that the shooter was "holding a gun out of the window as if it were a cigarette."

"Officers found two people who said they were at a stop sign when a woman pulled up…and fired shots into their vehicle, hitting and disabling the radiator.…More calls reported a woman pointing a firearm at people as she passed them in her car and…fired at another vehicle in the same area."

When police officers came upon the shooter…[she] led them on a chase,….even point[ing] the gun at a police officer.…

…Surely…officers would have been justified in using whatever force they saw fit. Right?

According to the paper, the shooter was "taken into custody without incident or injury."

Who was this shooter anyway? Julia Shields, a 45-year-old white woman….

Would this episode have ended this way if the shooter had been… black….?

…The American mind has been poisoned from this country's birth against…particularly African-American men….

It's hard to read stories like this and not believe that there is a double standard in the use of force by the police…..

Michael Brown was unarmed…. in Ferguson, Mo….

Eric Garner was unarmed on a Staten Island [N.Y.] street.

Tamir Rice was a 12-year-old, walking around a Cleveland park and holding a toy gun….

John Crawford was in an Ohio Walmart, holding, but not shooting, an air rifle he had picked up from a store shelf….

And last Tuesday, the police say, a hand gun was "revealed" during a New Jersey traffic stop of a car Jerome Reid was in.

None were "arrested without incident or injury." They were all Black, killed by police officers. Brown was shot through the head. Garner was grabbed around the neck in a chokehold, tossed to the ground and held there, even as he pleaded that he couldn't breathe….Rice was shot within two seconds of the police officers' arrival on the scene. Crawford…and Reid were also cut down by police bullets.

In the cases…heard so far,… grand juries have refused to indict the officers.

It seems walking, selling, playing, shopping or driving while Black is a death sentence. Racism produces super-profits for the bosses. The only answer is a death sentence for capitalism.

Buried History: Bosses Massacre; Workers Attack Klan

Much of the class struggle engaged in by workers and much of the deadly injustices U.S. bosses inflict on them is missing from high school and college textbooks. In a communist society, all workers would be taught the real history of this capitalist system.

Recently I was walking through the St. Bridget Cemetery in Lilly, Pa, located in the heart of Western Pennsylvania's coalfields when I stumbled upon a large monument marking the burial site of 35 immigrant railroad workers from Italy and countless others whose names, according to the stone, "are known only by god." These workers died in a massacre in 1903.

I researched it and found that the railroad bosses had constructed wooden buildings for the workers to sleep in. In some cases, nearly 150 workers were jammed into buildings containing only one door and a few small windows. Needless to say, they were fire traps.

One night a building burst into flames. The workers struggled desperately to escape, but many became entangled at the solitary exit and died. Their remains were placed in 12 coffins and buried in one large grave. This is just one example in U.S. history of bosses' crimes committed against workers.

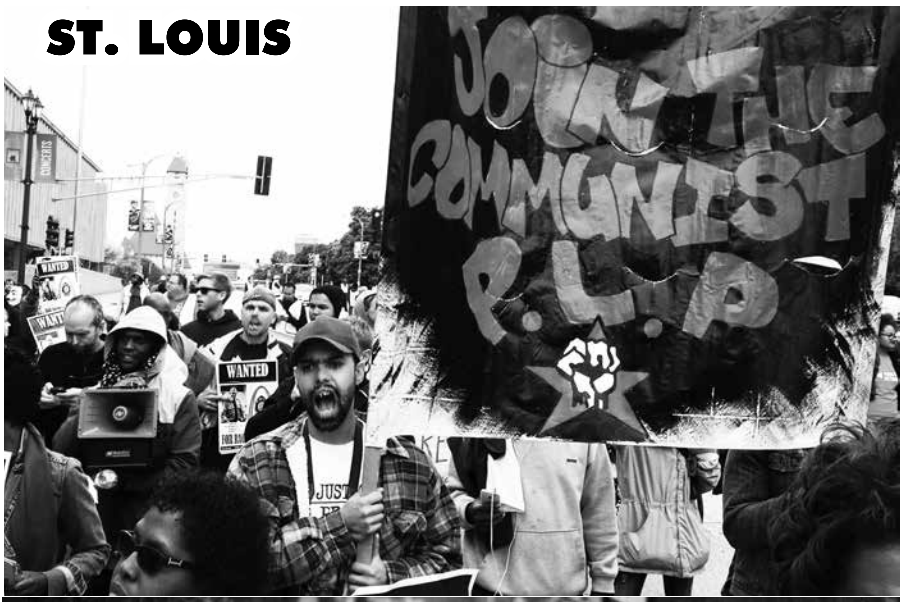
The Lilly miners have a militant and anti-racist history. In the early 1920s, the Klan rode into Lilly and marched to a nearby hillside where they burned a KKK cross to protest the exclusion of Klansmen from the miners' union. On their return to the railway station, local workers sprayed them with water hoses. Shots rang out and two people lay dead.

In 1970, union miners burned a coal tipple (vehicle) to the ground at a non-union mine near Lilly. The union was later fined, but this did not dampen their militancy.

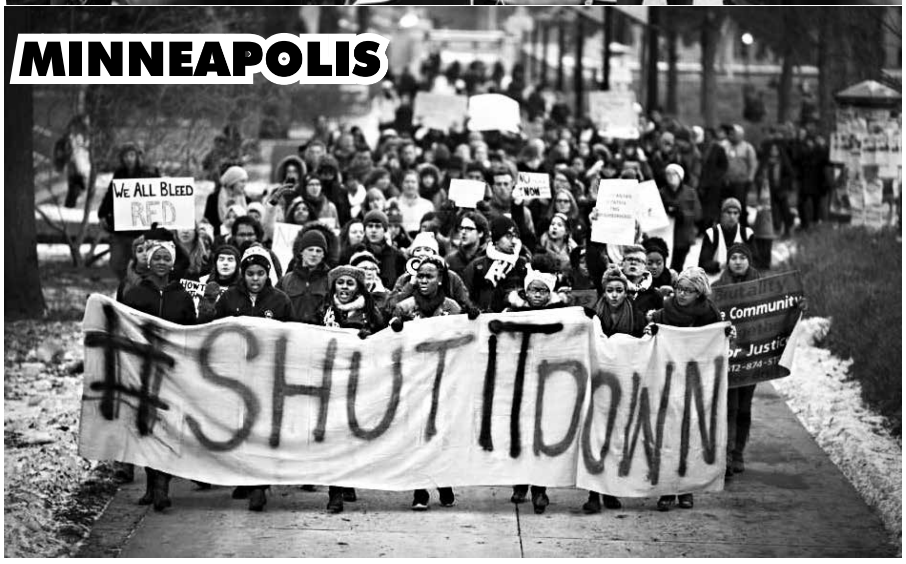
These are examples of the sort of injustices suffered by workers here and their fightback against them over the years. It's important for workers to learn all this as we continue to struggle against this decadent death-dealing capitalist system. I look forward to the day when all of this is included in history books.✪

2014: Antiracist Demonstrations

ST. LOUIS



MINNEAPOLIS



Politicians, Courts, Cops, Klan ALL Serve the Bosses

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capitalists through their "special bodies of armed men," masked and enabled by the laws capitalists themselves make through their bought-and-sold politicians, and administered by the courts the capitalists control through their political vetting of judges.

The police and capitalists themselves break their own laws with impunity, backed by obedient courts. Drug laws enable racist mass incarceration (preventive detention for workers who might prove dangerous to capital). The body of law and bourgeois legal thought are also part of the ideological function of the state: war and torture in U.S. foreign policy are legitimate if a law can be written to cover them.

Racism: Essential to Capitalist Profit, Police, and State Power

Where the working class is multiracial as it is in the U.S., systemic racism marks both ideological and repressive state functions; many people are now up in arms against this racist character of the police and prison systems. U.S. capitalists' state power is founded on racism because it is essential to their continued rule as well as to maximizing profit. Huge profit: hundreds of billions a year from the differences between the wages and services of Black and brown workers compared to white; between women and men workers; between native-born and immigrant workers. Capitalism will not give up this blood money and will use the full force of the state to hold on to it.

State racism functions to crush the revolt of the most exploited of our class, who are Black and Latin; it is meant to stop white workers from following the lead of Black and Latin rebels; and it hopes to split the fightback of the working class along racial lines. The robber baron Jay Gould put it this way: "I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half." They wish! But our mass marches are showing how we can come together against racism.

Police violence and mass imprisonment against Black and Latin workers, especially young men and women, is the cutting edge of this racist use of state power. The violence of the racist state at home carries over into the U.S. imperialists' racist armies abroad as they gruesomely kill and torture workers who are most often Black and brown. These facts define a capitalism with its bloody roots in slavery. But all workers of whatever "race" must fight racism against any part of our class. Racism assaults and insults us all. We need the might of the whole class — led by the most oppressed workers — to smash racism, that bosses' tool, forever.

Dialogue between Communist and Other Ideas in the Movement

The antiracist marchers of course have interesting and moving ideas of their own about racism, the police, and, more rarely but increasingly, capitalism and its state power. One noticeable thing in New York is the students and young professionals of all origins carrying eloquent statements by antiracist rebel writers like Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Audre Lorde, Frantz Fanon, and James Baldwin. There is a ferment of ideas as well as of action in this upsurge, and a constant, wonderful self-assessment of aims and methods. In that spirit, we offer readers these introductory notes on the police and the state under capitalism. We want to engage you in dialogue about this, as our comrades are doing in Ferguson, Brooklyn, the Bay Area, and other sites of racist police killings.



Of course the police and state functions of capitalist society are more complex than this article can do justice to, and there are many apparent exceptions to these claims. We would only say here that the exceptions, when analyzed, prove the rule. De Blasio is already backing a police hunt for six protesters who dared to resist police attempts to arrest a marcher. He is also against penalties for the use of the chokehold, the technique used to kill black worker Eric Garner. There is liberal and there is fascist policing, but scratch a liberal and you will always find a fascist, when hypocritical ideology needs to give way to iron repression.

The Only Solution Is Communist Revolution

Ultimately justice for workers must mean smashing the capitalist state and abolishing the racist ruling class with armed revolution. The state will be in the hands of the working class and the working class alone. We ask all antiracists to think about that challenging truth. Justice means ending all exploitation, not reforming a system whose whole purpose is to continue exploitation.

We invite you to study with us all these questions affecting our progress and success.

We invite you to organize with PLP, a revolutionary communist party, to advance antiracism.

We invite you to consider joining the struggle against racism and capitalism, to fight for an egalitarian world without racist exploitation, and, to that end, to join PLP and help build an effective, multiracial, international, revolutionary communist party.

Our Party, like you, is full of hope, because we have the strength of a long communist tradition behind us as well as the energy in the present of all those who revolt today, who say racism must be fought today. A different future is waiting to be built. Join us!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Harlem Forum & March Show Need for Communists

The protest in Harlem, NY on December 20, 2014 about Ferguson was great in my perspective not just because of the number of people who showed up but also because so many supported it, even those who were not part of the protest. I believe it is amazing that we get to rise together as communist revolutionaries and have our voices heard, the voices that are shut down by our capitalist system; that's what protesting is all about.

★ ★ ★ ★

I absolutely loved the forum. I loved how people stepped up and talked about their experience with the protest in Ferguson. I also found the stories of the people who had lost a family member to a cop in Baltimore compelling because you could feel their pain and their hurt. My favorite part of the forum was the rally afterwards. I have never been out, walking around in the middle of the street with a group of people protesting. It was never something I participated in before and I am happy I had the opportunity to do it.

Wade in the Water

A young brother from Baltimore at the "Fight like Ferguson" meeting in Harlem on Dec. 20 led us in singing "one of the chants we use in Baltimore":

I got a feeling

I got a feeling

Someone's trying to hold us back

There ain't gonna be no stuff like that!

Chills ran down my spine as I realized the tune was the old spiritual "Wade in the Water," which originally had both a religious meaning (the struggle of the newly baptized soul), and a political one (the struggle upward from slavery and racism).

Wade in the water

Wade in the water, children

Wade in the water

God's gonna trouble the water

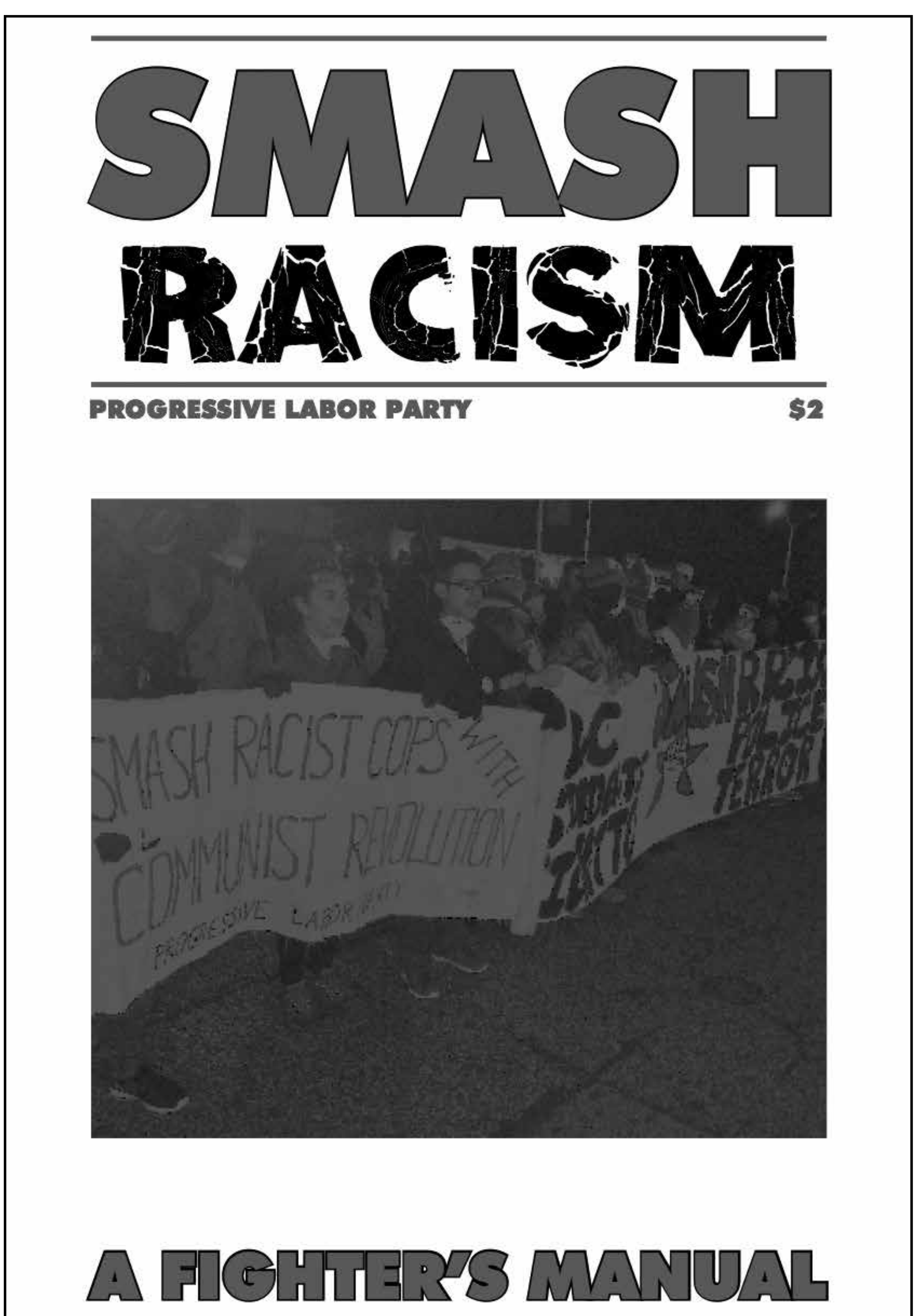
It became an anthem in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, and I sang it last a full 50 years ago in occupied Mississippi during the 1964 Freedom Summer. We northern volunteers sang it with the local people after a mass meeting in a vacant lot near a highway, as a police cordon carrying shotguns closed in on us and ordered us to disperse or be arrested.

Arrests would bankrupt the community or put their houses in hock, so we dispersed. But believe me, singing that song, it did not feel like we were dispersing or retreating. It was a battle cry, an unforgettable, unending battle cry. I will always hear "Wade in the Water" in the voices of those old Black freedom fighters of the South, urging us back — when we need urging — into the troubled waters of the movement.

The Black freedom struggle baptized me into the communist movement. I could barely believe that today I was hearing a version of this fighting music coming back at me, in a communist meeting, from a new Baltimore youth rebellion against police racism. The singer stood next to a young sister who told us her brother had been beaten to death by a dozen Baltimore cops after a car stop.

That summer in Mississippi also began with death, the police/Klan murder of three civil rights workers. Our struggle wades again and again in the water, in our own blood, but is carried beyond death by our music. Here is the chorus: sing it, remember it, give it the Baltimore words, give it new words, make it live another 50 years!





Read PLP's Smash Racism pamphlet. Get a copy online at plp.org, contact your local PL'er, or request a print copy at CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202

Anti-Racist March Builds Confidence

Recently, I was fortunate enough to participate in a massive protest in Foley Square, NY, which erupted after the racist cops who killed Eric Garner were not indicted. The outrage from my fellow New Yorkers, who are tired of the bosses' fascism and tired of letting another kkkop go, manifested into a sea of untapped consciousness. Thousands upon thousands of people from all diverse backgrounds convened near City Hall, marching along Canal Street and completely shutting down the West Side Highway.

I've always felt some nervousness attending marches, often wondering about police interference to split up the crowd. However, seeing how huge this gathering was (and being part of it), gave me more confidence that the cops couldn't stop us. And sure enough, they couldn't stop us from taking over West Street and reaching the masses. The fight for our class is nowhere near finished, but it's looking stronger every day.

My First College Conference

My trip from Boston to New York for the PLP College Conference was a new and exciting adventure for me. I was made aware of all the different problems and circumstances that people all over the world are dealing with. We had a rally in East Harlem, NY. During the demonstration, we were made aware of the problems and issues that could arise during a rally but I believe that my comrades and I were disciplined enough to not get out of control. As we were walking through the streets and chanting, there were people who came out of stores and shops and supported the cause and believed in what we were fighting for.

Of course the police showed up and tried to intimidate us by flashing their lights and getting on the bullhorn and telling us to move along. NYPD even thought they could ask one of my comrades what organization we were a part of. The rally "Workers and Students Unite" was such an amazing experience for me and was such an eye-opener. I can't wait until the next rally.

CHALLENGE Distribution Chronicles: LA Garment District

Our PLP club has been distributing CHALLENGE in the Los Angeles garment district each of the past four issues. We split the paper into English and Spanish parts and have averaged 90 copies per issue. We try to ask everyone for a donation, although some people go by so fast it's difficult — and sometimes we are unnecessarily timid. Our plan is to continue the distribution at the same time and place until we can get to know and follow up with some of the workers who pass by regularly.

The following is a conversation with a man who took the paper for the first time.

M: What's this about?

P: It's a revolutionary communist newspaper.

M: What's wrong with socialism, like in Germany?

P: Germany is a capitalist country with "socialized medicine" and laws about maternity and paternity leave, holidays for workers, and some job guarantees. We are talking about getting rid of capitalism and workers running the world.

M: Wow! That's big.

P: You're right.

M: You mean getting rid of money. People would have to cooperate — no more "me first."

P: You've got it.

M: I'm going to lunch now. I'm going to read this over lunch.

Communism: Cure for Cancer and Capitalism

Continued from page 8

man, "…the workers' desire for comfort, income, safety, and leisure is continually counterbalanced by the employer's need for profit." This is an iron rule of capitalism, even more so in a period of rising inter-imperialist competition.

Lawrence Summers, chief economist of the World Bank in the early 1990s, summed up the bosses' murderous business-as-usual in a famous memo: "I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest-wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that."

Rx for Cancer: Communist Revolution

The medical establishment's response to the cancer epidemic is mostly limited to encouraging screening and lifestyle changes. But while mammograms and colonoscopies may detect early cancer or precancerous changes, they do nothing to prevent the development of cancer in the population in general. And while the health system urges us to stop smoking and eat a healthy diet, it generally ignores the saturation of our food with corn syrup, the fact that fast foods are all that many can afford, and the easy access of the young to highly addictive cigarettes. In 2009, the government's public health activities received only 3 percent of the more than $2 trillion spent by the U.S. on health care.

Because of racism, Black, Latin, and immigrant workers receive the worst medical care, and are forced to live and work in areas that are the most toxic to their health.

Children are the canaries in the coal mine (a warning of adverse conditions and greater danger), especially vulnerable to the ravages of environment-induced cancer. By 2003, according to the New York Times, the incidence of cancer in children had increased 20 percent in the preceding 20 years. For infants under one, the increase was 36 percent! The recent vogue of movies (like *The Fault in Our Stars*), TV shows, and books about children with cancer is a ruling-class tool to get us to accept this atrocity as the new normal.



Capitalism is "a system that fouls its own nest, both the human-social conditions and the wider natural environment on which it depends" (*Monthly Review*, December 2011). This is the very nature of the beast.

The cancer epidemic will be defeated only when this profit-driven society is replaced by one ruled by and for workers — by communism. ✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

CIA Prescription: Torture

NYT, 12/17/14 — The Central Intelligence Agency's interrogation program [used]…psychologists and doctors in torturing suspected terrorists….Earlier reports [stated]…that health professionals had facilitated the torture by advising the interrogators when their brutal tactics might inadvertently kill a prisoner.

…Two psychologists, James Mitchell and Bruce Jessup, who devised a list of coercive techniques to be used in questioning prisoners also personally conducted interrogations in which they tortured…CIA detainees. They earned tens of millions of dollars under contract for those services….

…They…employed…shackling people in painful positions, keeping them awake for more than a week at a time, locking them in coffin-sized boxes and repeated waterboarding.

Tens of thousands of GIs desert war zones

NYT, 12/25/14 — The Army has prosecuted about 1,900 cases of deserters since 2001, despite tens of thousands of soldiers fleeing the service in the face of deadly combat, long and multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and strains on military families. More than 20,000 soldiers have been dropped from the roles as deserters since 2006….Totals in earlier years…most likely include thousands more.

Child laborers in tobacco fields contract nicotine poisoning

NYT, 12/29/14 — Children as young as 7 are working on tobacco farms in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia….This is a perfectly legal practice under federal labor laws and regulations if the parents allow it. Some of the children reported…suffer[ing] from nausea, dizziness, and vomiting, all symptoms of nicotine poisoning….

…Exposure to nicotine…can be absorbed through skin contact with tobacco plants and hurt brain development in young people.

Kids jailed for skipping school — and racism rears its head

NYT, 12/29/14 — …In America's four-decade-long incarceration boom…amid all the wasted money and ruined lives….juvenile[s] were routinely locked up with adults, exposing them to physical and sexual abuse…. [including] the…practice of throwing children in jail for "status offenses" like skipping school, running away or violating a curfew — behavior for which no adult would be punished….

Some judges…still put far too many kids behind bars by relying on an exception to the status offense rule that allows them to lock up juveniles who have been warned not to reoffend. In 2011, about 8,800 juveniles were detained for status offenses…..

Young African-Americans are…more than four times as likely as young whites to be put behind bars, even though they offend at similar rates.

Boom for the rich, bust for the workers

NYT, 12/18/14 — The wealthy are getting wealthier. As for everyone else, no such luck.

…The Pew Research Center found that the wealth gap between the country's top 20 percent of earners and the rest of America had stretched to its widest point in at least three decades.

Last year, the median net worth of upper-income families reached $639,400, nearly seven times …those in the middle, and nearly 70 times those at the bottom of the income ladder….

"The Great Recession destroyed a significant amount of middle-income and lower-income families' wealth, and the economic 'recovery' has yet to be felt by them," the report concluded.

Pew…defined middle income as $44,000 a year for a family of four.…The rise in wealth inequality is almost entirely due to the rise of the top 0.1 percent wealth share, from 7 percent in 1979 to 22 percent in 2012."

The share of wealth controlled by the bottom 90 percent…has steadily declined since the 1980s.

Coal barons kill miners, destroy Appalachia communities — Safety laws? Forget it…

NYT, 12/1/14 — Donald Blankenship, the notorious former chief executive of the Massey Energy Company,…was charged with widespread safety violations…[which] led to the 2010 explosion that killed 29 miners at the Upper Big Branch mine….

…Fraser Creek Mining involv[ed] over a thousand Clean Water Act violations and years of false data on pollution disclosure reports.

Coal is an outlaw enterprise. In nearly every stage of its production,…companies that profit from it routinely defy safety and environmental laws and standards…. Blankenship conceded…that mountaintop removal mining could probably not be conducted without committing violations….

…In Kentucky and throughout the region, toxins, many…potentially lethal, have leached from coal mine debris and illegally contaminated countless miles of rivers and streams….

…The United Sates attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, along with the heads of the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division, failed to hold the companies accountable….

…Campaigns are fueled by donations from King Coal [to which] state agencies and politicians…continue to be servile cogs in a destructive machine. That mechanism is…poisoning…rivers and people and destroying the communities of Appalachia.

Racist LA prison guards awarded points for breaking inmates' bones

NYT, 12/17/14 — The Los Angeles County jail system regularly beat…prisoners, and supervisors were accused of…corruption and violence in the jails….

…A group of deputies, acting as a de facto gang…awarded one another points for breaking prisoners' bones….

The Board of Supervisors approved a $350,000 payment to Derek Griscavage, a former inmate who…had been knocked unconscious during a beating by four or five deputies….

Guards…routinely abused handcuffed…non-resisting inmates with lasers or pepper spray, employed chokeholds, punched and kicked prisoners and slammed their heads into walls….

Deputies also sought to provoke racial tensions…, using racial slurs against African-American inmates and encouraging gang members to assault rivals.

Communism: Cure for Cancer and Capitalism

Cancer is epidemic, rapidly gaining on cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death in the U.S. A United Nations research agency tells us that cancer incidence worldwide is expected to rise by 70 percent over the next twenty years. The disease is growing at "an alarming pace," according to a 2014 report by the World Health Organization.

Why is this happening? The capitalists' mass media would have us believe that cancer — along with obesity and diabetes — is a "genetic disease," an unstoppable killer. A mass mailing by the American Medical Association (8/22/14) bore the headline: "New research suggests cancer can't be eradicated." It quoted an evolutionary biologist who maintained, "[O]ur cells' ability to develop cancer is an intrinsic property." Meanwhile, the media does its best to ignore or minimize the role played by carcinogens in the environment. As *Scientific American* (5/21/10) stated: "But scientists most likely will never be able to tease out the true role of environmental contaminants because environmental exposures, genetics and lifestyle seem to all intertwine."

This is a gross distortion of scientific reality. In fact, the rising cancer rate is directly linked to the increase of toxic chemicals and racism in our environment. This in turn reflects the bosses' drive for short-term profit and their utter disregard for the health of the working class. To attribute cancer — and other contemporary epidemics, like diabetes — to our genes is to blame the victims for their "deficient" genetic code.

The truth is that workers are being sickened by capitalist need for profit.

On the matter of obesity, a 2008 article in Nutrition Reviews, a peer-reviewed journal of the International Life Sciences Institute, noted:

> *Genetic changes are unlikely to explain the rapid spread of obesity around the globe. That's because the "gene pool"—the frequency of different genes across a population—remains fairly stable for many generations. It takes a long time for new mutations or polymorphisms to spread. So if our genes have stayed largely the same, what has changed over the past 40 years of rising obesity rates? Our environment: the physical, social, political, and economic surroundings that influence how much we eat and how active we are. Environmental changes that make it easier for people to overeat, and harder for people to get enough physical activity, have played a key role in triggering the recent surge of overweight and obesity.*

No Constraint on Capitalist Poisons

The link between environmental contaminants and cancer dates back to 1775, when Percival Pott published a study of English chimney sweeps who developed cancer of the scrotum due to soot and coal tar. Since World War II, our environment has grown increasingly contaminated with carcinogens. In his 1998 book, *The Politics of Cancer Revisited*, Dr. Samuel S. Epstein notes that production of synthetic organic chemicals, petroleum, and natural gas all skyrocketed in the 1940s. Plasticizers and the pesticides were introduced from 1945 through 1955.

Today the globe is awash in toxic chemicals: arsenic, asbestos, benzene, formaldehyde, ionizing radiation, soot, radon, and hair dyes. Industrial and agricultural chemicals have been polluting ground water in California for at least 50 years. Millions of tons of cancer-causing pesticides have been poured onto agricultural land around the world, contaminating food supplies. In the 1960s and '70s, the Allied Signal Company produced the insecticide Kepone, a chemical cousin to DDT that persists for hundreds of years, and dumped it into the James River Estuary in Virginia. In 2003, the French West Indian island of Guadalupe restricted crop-growing areas due to Kepone contamination; Guadalupe has one of the highest prostate cancer rates in the world. As recently as March 2014, the Duke Energy Company was cited for dumping devastating, toxic coal ash sludge into the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, in a pattern that goes back at least four decades.

While the Centers for Disease Control currently lists 135 substances as "potential occupational carcinogens," or cancer-causing agents, very few of the 80,000 chemicals now in use have ever been tested for safety. According to *Scientific American* (July 2014), "The Toxic Substances Control Act, last updated in 1976, allows industry to use new chemicals without first demonstrating that they are safe. Instead it places the burden of proof on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Yet of the more than 50,000 chemicals used commercially, the EPA has tested just 300."

In 2010, the President's Cancer Panel reported that "the true burden of environmentally induced cancers has been grossly underestimated." Women who give birth with high levels of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) or DDT in their blood show an increased risk of developing breast cancer (*Nature*, 5/29/14). Further, environmental contaminants have been shown to permanently affect gene function. Epigenetic studies have revealed that harmful chemicals can permanently alter which genes are activated, or "turned on," without changing the genes' DNA coding. (The term epigenetics refers to heritable changes, influenced by the factors such as the environment, in gene expression that does not involve changes to the underlying DNA sequences). DDT can cause negative effects in animals' offspring: "Today, no one doubts that epigenetic effects play a crucial role in development, aging and even cancer" (*Scientific American*, August 2014).

Business As Usual

Capitalists and their state apparatus have a long history of obscuring the cancer-environment connection, despite overwhelming scientific evidence. One glaring example: "After decades of denials, the government is conceding that since the dawn of the atomic age, workers making nuclear weapons have been exposed to radiation and chemicals that have produced cancer and early death" (New York Times, 1/29/2000).

The bosses' indifference to our health is also exposed by the collusion between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which promotes nuclear power worldwide. As a result, "the WHO has steadfastly resisted conducting studies on the health effects of exposure to uranium 238 following Desert Storm, Bosnia, and Kosovo" (Helen Caldicott, *The New Nuclear Danger*, 2002).

The capitalists' sporadic attempts to curb pollution have little impact. The Environmental Protection Agency is chronically underfunded; the Clean Air Act is perpetually under-enforced, following the needs and urgings of industry. As stated in *Occupational and Environmental Health* (2011), edited by Levy and Weg-

Continued on page 7



2014: Antiracist demonstration in Ferguson.
Continue the fight in 2015 with PLP!